

**Assistant Secretary Philip Gordon Press Availability After Meeting with DUI Leader Ali
Ahmeti
May 13, 2010**

A/S Gordon: Good afternoon everybody. I just had an excellent meeting with Mr. Ahmeti. I thanked him for the constructive role he plays in this country in promoting inter-ethnic relations. I thanked him for his strong statement condemning the violence that we recently saw on the border, and that is something that we also in the United States strongly condemn. I am in Skopje to express the strong support of the United States for Macedonia and our bilateral relationship. It is unfortunately a brief visit, but I have had a chance to speak to a range of officials. I met with the President earlier today, and because the PM was diverted by the volcanic ash cloud I will not see him in Skopje but I am pleased that I will have a chance to see him later this evening in Zagreb, so I will have a chance to meet the PM as well. Again, I am delighted to be here. I thank Mr. Ahmeti for the meeting.

Question: What was your message to the authorities regarding the name issue?

A/S Gordon: We strongly support an agreement on the name between Greece and Macedonia. We strongly support Macedonia's NATO membership and movement on the path to European integration. The name dispute is a key to unlocking that so my message is that they should work constructively with Greece, find a solution to this problem and move on, and when that happens the United States will be a strong supporter of the agreement.